

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-04 EA-06 L-02 EUR-12

SR-02 ORM-01 /038 W

----- 102377

P 282014Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2356

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CPRS, CI

SUBJECT: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS CHILEAN NATIONAL MIRTHA COMPAGNET
GODOY AND REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OF ALEX COMPAGNET GODOY

REF: SANTIAGO 0880 AND PREVIOUS

1. MARITSA AND HER BROTHER ALEX COMPAGNET GODOY CAME TO EMBASSY FEB. 27 WITH NEWS THAT MIRTHA COMPAGNET HAS BEEN LOCATED IN TRES ALAMOS DETENTION FACILITY IN SANTIAGO. FAMILY LEARNED OF WHEREABOUTS NOT FROM GOC BUT FROM CLANDESTINE "GRAPEVINE" WHICH PASSES NEWS ABOUT DETAINEES. MARITSA SAW MIRTHA AT TRES ALAMOS FEB. 25. MIRTHA CLAIMED TO HER THAT SHE HAD BEEN HELD BY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA) FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING ACTIVITIES HER FIANCE AND FOR HER OWN CONNECTION WITH "LEFTIST SCHOOL" IN VALPARAISO BEFORE MILITARY COUP OF SEPT. 1973. SHE STATED TO SISTER THAT SHE HAD BEEN TORTURED BY DINA WITH ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND OTHER MEANS, AND ACCORDING MARITSA BEARS RESULTING MARKS ON BODY. SHE TOLD FAMILY DINA HELD HER TEN DAYS AFTER INTERROGATION ENDED TO IMPROVE HER PHYSICAL CONDITION BEFORE TURNING HER OVER TO TRES ALAMOS. PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS APPARENTLY SATISFACTORY.

2. MIRTHA TOLD FAMILY THAT GOC EVIDENTLY PLANS TO PLACE NO RPT NO CHARGES AGAINST HER, AND THAT SHE WILL BE EXILED
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FROM CHILE IF PLACE FOUND FOR HER. AT MOMENT SHE UNDERSTANDS

DUTCH ARE NEGOTIATING WITH GOC TO TAKE ALL (AND ONLY) WOMEN IN POLITICAL PRISONER CATEGORY, AND SHE HOPES TO BE INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP. (COMMENT: WE CANNOT CONFIRM DUTCH INITIATIVE. END COMMENT). MARITSA AND ALEX ASKED IF US COULD OFFER TO TAKE HER, AND WERE TOLD THAT US HAS NO PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE. FAMILY WILL SEE FRENCH CONSUL NEXT GIVEN FRENCH EMBASSY INTEREST IN HER CASE (REFTELS).

3. AFTER DISCUSSING MIRTHA, BROTHER ALEX STATED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED FOR OWN SAFETY. HE WAS OUT OF CHILE (IN US AND GERMANY) DURING MOST OF ALLENDE PERIOD, AND HAS BEEN BACK IN CHILE ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS. DINA INTERROGATORS QUESTIONED MIRTHA INTENSIVELY ABOUT HIM, AND HE IS CONVINCED HE IS SUSPECT (HE DID NOT COMMENT ON ANY SUBSTANCE THERE MIGHT BE TO DINA SUSPICIONS.) HE WOULD LEAVE CHILE NOW BUT IS AFRAID OF ARREST IF HE APPLIES FOR EXIT. HE IS "NOT EXACTLY HIDING" BUT HAS NOT BEEN LIVING AT HOME. HE ASKED IF US EMBASSY WOULD GIVE HIM ASYLUM. EMBOFF INFORMED HIM OF US POLICY ON ASYLUM, AND HE DID NOT PRESS SUBJECT. HE THEN ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD INTERVENE WITH ANOTHER EMBASSY TO GIVE HIM ASYLUM, OR RECOMMEND WHICH EMBASSIES HE COULD MOST EASILY APPROACH (I.E. TO AVOID CAPTURE BY POLICE GUARDS). WE DECLINED EITHER TO INTERVENE OR TO PROVIDE SUCH ADVICE. WE SUSPECT HE MAY WELL TRY FRENCH NEXT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD RESPONSE YET THROUGH INFORMAL FONMIN CHANNEL (REFTEL), BUT PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES REPLY ON MIRTHA MAY SOON BE FORTHCOMING, AS SHE HAS NOW "SURFACED" IN TRES ALAMOS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA01301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750071-0889
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975022/aaaaabpm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANTIAGO 0880
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS CHILEAN NATIONAL MIRTHA COMPAGNET GODOY AND REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OF ALEX COMPAGNET GODOY
TAGS: SHUM, CPRS, CI, (COMPAGNET GODOY, MIRTHA), (COMPAGNET GODOY, ALEX)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006